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of reports from the numerous meteorological stations scattered about the country.

Only additional observations could establish the character of the object and it must probably remain an open question. But the case has considerable interest in view of its uniqueness, and the numerical results are presented for what they are worth.

Observatorio Nacional,
Córdoba, Argentina,
June 16, 1916.

PLANETARY PHENOMENA FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1916.

By Malcolm McNeill.

PHASES OF THE MOON, PACIFIC TIME.

First Quarter.	Sept. 4th,	8^h 26^m P.M.	First Quarter.	Oct. 4th,	3^h 0^m A.M.
Full Moon...	" 11th,	12 31 P.M.	Full Moon...	" 10th,	11 1 P.M.
Last Quarter.	" 18th,	9 35 P.M.	Last Quarter.	" 18th,	5 9 P.M.
New Moon...	" 26th,	11 34 P.M.	New Moon...	". 26th,	12 37 P.M.

The Moon will again pass over the *Pleiades* group and a number of the more prominent stars will be occulted in the early morning of October 14th before sunrise. As the Moon is then in the third quarter the immersions will take place on the bright limb. There will be an unusual number of occultations of planets during September and October, but none of these will be observable in the United States. The Moon will pass over *Saturn* and *Neptune* on the night of September 21-22d, and over *Venus* on the morning of September 24th. *Saturn* and *Neptune* will again be occulted on October 19th.

The autumnal equinox, when the Sun crosses the equator from north to south, occurs September 23rd, 1^h 14^m A. M. Pacific time.

Mercury is an evening star on September 1, setting a little less than an hour after sunset. It is then a little too near the Sun for naked eye visibility. It reaches greatest east elongation on September 9th. The elongation, 26° 54′, is a large one as it comes only about a week after aphelion, but the planet is so far south of the Sun that it will set scarcely an hour after sunset and conditions are not favorable for naked eye view. The planet passes inferior conjunction on the morning of October 5th and becomes a morning star. Greatest west elongation occurs on October 20th. This elongation, 18° 17′, is much under the average as perihelion passage came on October 16th, but the planet is several degrees north of the Sun, and by the middle of the month the planet will rise about an hour and one-half before sunrise. This interval diminishes somewhat toward the close of the month but remains well over an hour. For the last three weeks of the month, therefore, *Mercury* will be an easy object in the morning twilight.

Venus is in fine position for morning observation, rising about three and one-half hours before sunrise thruout the two months' period. It reaches its greatest west elongation, 46° 1′, on September 12th, and from that date the apparent distance between Sun and planet begins to decrease. The amount of this diminution up to October 31st is about 9°; but the relative motion of *Venus* and the Sun carries the planet considerably to the north of the Sun, and the total effect on the difference of time in the rising of the planet and of the Sun is only about ten minutes. During the two months the planet moves 64° eastward and 15° southward from *Cancer* thru *Leo* to the western boundary of *Virgo*. On October 7th it passes about half a degree south of *Regulus, α Leonis*. While the planet is not quite as bright as it was at the time of greatest brilliancy in August, it will still retain nearly half its light up to the end of October, and will be by far the most conspicuous object in the sky.

Mars is still in the evening sky, but is drawing closer to the Sun and has ceased to be conspicuous. On September 1st it sets about two hours, and on October 31st not quite an hour and one-half after sunset. It is nearing its maximum distance from the Earth and is nearly at its least brightness. However, it is still a little brighter than the pole star and can be seen in the evening twilight without much difficulty. During the two months it moves 42° eastward and 13° southward from a position in *Virgo* about 3° east of *Spica*, the principal star of the constellation, thru *Libra* and into *Scorpio,* to a place 1° west and 4° north of *Antares,* α *Scorpii.* On September 29th it passes less than 1° south of α *Librae,* a third magnitude star.

Jupiter is getting into good position for evening observation. On September 1st it rises before 9 P. M. and on October 31st shortly before sunset. It reaches opposition with the Sun on October 23rd and is then above the horizon thruout the entire night. Its motion during September and October is retrograde, about 6° eastward and 2° southward in the constellation *Aries.* No bright star is near it.

Saturn rises before 2 A. M. on September 1st and shortly after 10 P. M. on October 31st. On September 1st it is nearly on the prolongation of the line from *Castor* to *Pollux* and distant from the latter an amount about 50% greater than the distance between the stars. Its motion during the two months is about 4° eastward into the constellation *Cancer.* On the night of September 5th it is in conjunction with *Venus,* the latter passing about 3° to the south. As seen in the telescope the rings appear less widely open than they were early in the year, the minor axis of the ring being perceptibly less than the polar diameter of the planet.

Uranus sets on September 1st at about half past three A. M. and at half an hour before midnight on October 31st. It is nearly stationary in the constellation *Capricorn,* moving about 1° westward until October 26th. It then begins to move slowly eastward. On September 1st the nearest moderately bright star is ι *Capricorni,* a small fourth magnitude, a little less than 1° south of the planet. At the end of October the planet is about 1° west and 24′ north of the star. The planet is not bright, not much above naked eye visibility on a clear moonless night.

Neptune is in the constellation *Cancer* somewhat east of *Saturn.* On September 13th it is in conjunction with *Venus,* the latter passing about 2° to the south.